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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

Bruce Tockman et al.

Examiner: George R. Evanisko

Serial No.:

09/630,000

Group Art Unit: 3762

Filed:

August 1, 2000

Docket: 279.246US1

Title:

LEAD HAVING VARYING STIFFNESS AND METHOD OF

MANUFACTURING THEREOF

NOTICE OF APPEAL FROM THE DECISION OF THE EXAMINER TO THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

MAIL STOP AF

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

In compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.191, Applicants hereby appeal to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences from the decision dated March 17, 2004, of the Examiner rejecting claims 16-46 of the above-identified patent application.

A request for an extension of time to respond to the Examiner's rejection is submitted herewith along with payment of the required extension fee.

Our check in the amount of \$330.00 is enclosed to pay the Notice of Appeal fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(b). Please charge any required additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

BRUCE TOCKMAN ET AL.

By Applicants' Attorneys,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to MAIL STOP AF, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on August 7, 2004.

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Signature

Name